

Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

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News



Lloyd Libert reported to me that Frank R. Schell passed away on Friday, March 6, 1998, at his home in Twin Falls. Not all of us had the opportunity to meet Frank, but we all knew of his pioneering work in cataloguing the trade tokens of Idaho. Born in Nebraska in 1916, Frank taught welding at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, and served as Director of Curricular Development there. Frank is survived by his wife, Virginia, son Jon and daughter Collene, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Frank wrote a weekly coin question & answer column entitled "The Money Box" for the Twin Falls Times-News in the mid-1960s when he was first introduced to Idaho trade tokens. In 1967 he completed the landmark Idaho Merchants' Tokens 1865 - 1967. His Idaho book was the first catalog of trade tokens by state, and

was the only one to be done in photographic format. He also observed and catalogued common reverse types. The first listing generated quite a bit of interest in Idaho tokens, allowing Schell to follow in 1970 with a second edition and a 1972 alphabetical listing. He had 650 of the first edition printed, and still had many on hand in 1970, so he only had 250 of the second edition made resulting in its current rarity, as it sold out quickly.

Frank also wrote articles for the TAMS Journal, and enjoyed researching tokens. His interest in Idaho ghost towns led him to research and publish Ghost Towns and Live Ones, a History of Idaho Postoffices 1862 - 1973. In 1974 he exited the token hobby, but continued writing fiction and textbooks on welding.

I first corresponded with Frank in 1966, sending him the first 5 or 6 tokens I had gotten to photograph. At that time he wrote me that "I have been paying 25¢ for undated - 50¢ for dated tokens - which seems to me to be a reasonable amount." In a 1969 letter to me he said, "I am constantly amazed and somewhat disconcerted at the way prices are climbing on tokens. It was a nice, quiet inexpensive hobby but the dealers are getting into the act. I paid \$15.00 for a token from Deep Creek, Idaho day before yesterday. Wow! The token has some merit, of course, since it is from a defunct town, and the only one I have ever seen - but that is a lot of money." Don't we all wish we could have a time machine to go back just a few years!

Another token cleaning method

Lloyd Libert says he uses Brasso polish applied using a fiber cup brush on a Dremel motor tool. On more heavily encrusted pieces, he sometimes uses a soft wire brush with Brasso.

An "Almost" Token

The Boise "Victory Penny" described last month generated interest in other Idaho towns. In Nampa, the cent shortage was acute as well, so the merchants decided to use a variation of the Boise idea. From the Nampa newspaper, the Idaho Free Press of December 2, 1942:

PAPER PENNIES WILL BE ISSUED NAMPA MERCHANTS PLAN TO PRINT 100,000

Faced with an acute shortage of copper pennies, Nampa Retail Merchants yesterday authorized an order for 100,000 paper pennies, redeemable until June 1, 1943 at the Chamber of Commerce office. The same step had been taken in Boise, paper pennies going into circulation there Monday.

The new paper "coins" will be lithographed and merchants hope to have them in circulation within a few days. One inch square, they will bear a scarlet outline map of Idaho, with Nampa's position indicated. The pennies were designed by Charles R. Stark, Secretary-Manager of the Chamber of Commerce. Merchants plan to put out a six months supply of the pennies, and if necessary a second issue will be "minted" at the end of the six month period.

Payment is guaranteed by the Retail Merchants' association, Stark said today, and paper pennies may be redeemed any time during the six months.

The December 4 issue of the Idaho Free Press indicated that the first orders for Nampa's paper pennies had come in from collectors, and that they should be ready by December 9. Then the December 6 headline in the Idaho Statesman that Treasury Secretary Morgenthau had warned that the coin substitutes were illegal evidently scared the Nampans, as the Idaho Free Press of December 7 said "Nampa's Penny Plan Held Up". A meeting of the Chamber was to be held later that day to discuss the dilemma. Evidently the group decided to quietly shelve the idea and cancel the printing order as there were no further items on the subject in the paper. None of these pieces, not even a prototype, has ever surfaced to my knowledge.

A. C. White Lumber Company

Grafton, Vermont natives Charles S. White and Carrie Merrifield married in the mid-1800s and started their family in Grafton, which is in the southeastern part of the state at the point where the South Branch of Saxtons River empties into the main stream. Two daughters and then two sons were born to the couple. The older son, Albert Charles White, was born March 18, 1866, and his brother Arthur Francis White was born October 20, 1867. The boys attended public schools in Grafton, then went to Saxtons River, about seven miles east of Grafton, to attend the Vermont Academy, a boarding school still very much active.



After graduation, the brothers spent a year with their father in his wood manufacturing business before setting out for Michigan in 1887, where they settled at Saginaw. There they found work in the lumber business, starting as laborers in logging camps. Soon they were working in the sawmill, advancing through the positions there. By 1891, A. F. had saved enough money to quit work and attend Kalamazoo College where he studied for the ministry. He graduated in 1895 and went on to the Rochester Theological Seminary where he received his Divinity degree in 1898. That year he married Anne Wood of Rives Junction, MI and became Pastor of the Macon, MI Baptist Church.

Meanwhile, A. C. continued in the lumber business in Saginaw. He soon went into business for himself, buying tracts of timberland and then a sawmill. Later he expanded

into manufacturing wooden boxes and window frames. He married Anna Whiting of Saginaw, a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music. By 1908, White could see the decline of the lumber industry in Michigan coming, so he took an exploratory trip to the Northwest and liked the prospects there. In 1909 he sold his interests in Michigan and arranged the purchase of the Laclede Lumber Company from Andrew E. Christenson who is known to token collectors for a dairy token (#LAC-1) he later used.

On March 11, 1909 the A. C. White family arrived in Sandpoint on the evening train from the east. He immediately went to Laclede and took control of the mill, renaming the operation the A. C. White Lumber Company. He quickly announced plans to enlarge the operation, including doubling the capacity of the planing mill. His arrival coincided with the ice going out of Lake Pend Oreille, which marked the start of the mill season. Logs had been floated down the Clark Fork River and other streams emptying into the lake. They were stored in rafts, awaiting spring when they could be towed across the lake and down the Pend Oreille River to the mill.

Also in 1909, Reverend A. F. White received an appointment to become the pastor of the Payette, Idaho Baptist Church. Soon afterwards A. C. asked his brother to move north and become business manager of the A. C. White Lumber Company. A. F. did so, but at the same time served in a missionary capacity with the Baptist Church. The Whites built fifty houses and a school in Laclede for mill employees and their families, a boarding house for single workers, founded the First Baptist Church of Laclede, opened a "company store", barber shop, pool hall, and other amenities for the community. It has long been assumed (since the token is an undated maverick) that it was at this time they ordered the first of the tokens known from the firm, #LAC-2, 5¢ and 10¢ round aluminum pieces. A. C. White and his wife made regular sales trips to the east, developing the market for their Idaho white pine sash and door products. It was probably on one of these trips that he learned of the Ingle System method of



accounting using tokens and placed an order for the second series of White tokens, #LAC-2(A through E), in 5, 10, 25, 50, and 1.00 denominations, all round and plated brass. They are dated with the Ingle patent of April 7, 1914, so they were placed in use after that date.

Using these Ingle tokens, an employee wanting an advance on his pay would receive the amount in tokens. The company bookkeeper would note the advance on the pay record as a deduction. The employee could spend the tokens the same as cash, but only in the company store or other company businesses. In practice, though, since the A. C. White name was a trusted one, the tokens were accepted many other places in the area.

On August 17, 1922, the White mill caught fire and burned to the ground along with a large quantity of lumber and uncut logs. Fortunately, White had the business sense to have the operation insured, but even after the insurance paid, he was out of business. He speedily rectified this situation by purchasing the Dover Lumber Company mill from B. H. Hornby in September of that year. He then proceeded to move 55 houses and other buildings from Laclede to Dover by barging them the 10 miles up the Pend Oreille River. He soon expanded the mill facilities at Dover and the A. C. White Lumber Company was back in full swing.



At Dover, the company ordered a new series of tokens, catalogued as #DOV-1, -1[A], and -1[B]. They are all round, but in 5¢ aluminum, 10¢ aluminum, 25¢ brass and aluminum, and \$1 brass. It is probable that the Ingle and earlier tokens without a town name on them were still used after the operation moved to Dover.

The A. C. White Lumber Company prospered during the "Roaring 20s", cutting and milling high grade Idaho white pine into molding and sash and door frames. A. C. made regular selling trips to the eastern markets, bringing back orders to keep his operation busy. On June 29, 1928, after a full week of work at his office, Albert White suffered a heart attack and died at his home in Dover, leaving his wife, two daughters, and a son as survivors. His brother Arthur was pastor of a church in Spokane at the time, having served as pastor in Baptist churches in Sandpoint and Caldwell in the intervening years.

After the death of A. C. White, the family evidently disposed of their interest in the company, and E. R. McCory became the new president. The properties were appraised, at which time the new owners determined that the assets were underinsured so they upped the coverage. The next disaster to beset the company came just a few weeks later when, early in the morning of September 6, 1928, fire broke out in the sawmill. After an all-day battle, mill employees and the Sandpoint Fire Department extinguished the blaze, but losses were estimated to be up to \$100,000. Fortunately, the settlement money came quickly and work proceeded to rebuild the mill to meet the orders, which continued coming in. The new owners were unable to accomplish all they had set out to do and still meet payments on their debt, so the mill closed at the end of 1928 when it went into the hands of receivers. The sawmill operation stayed closed until 1937 when it was briefly restarted before being torn down and moved to Prineville, OR. The planing mill continued working; ultimately the whole operation was bought by the Pack River Lumber Co. in 1940 and subsequently updated in 1965.

Reverend A. F. White returned to Sandpoint in 1930 to close out his career in the ministry. His failing eyesight brought on his retirement in 1937, but he continued teaching Sunday school, endearing himself to many Sandpoint youngsters. The community was saddened to learn of his death on March 18, 1955 at the age of 88.

New token books

I just received my copy of Kappen's **California Token Supplement**, a 586 page 8½ by 11 format hardback which should prove to be as valuable as the original Kappen CA book. It is \$65., postpaid from Charles Kappen, Box 35560, Monte Sereno, CA 95030-0560.

Al Erickson has advertised his **Washington State Trade Tokens** which is to be mailed by mid-June. It will also be hardbound and in the larger format. Prepublication orders (until June 1) are \$60., postpaid from Mike Patton, NW Exonumia, Box 1365, Ocean Shores, WA 98569.

And Bob Campbell's Utah Token Book is due for delivery soon. It will be available at a pre-issue (i.e. until May 15) price of \$31.21, postpaid from All About Coins, 1123 E. 2100 S., Salt Lake City, Utah 84106. I don't know the format but believe this one is softbound

On all of these, if you are a resident of the selling state, add appropriate sales tax. Even though you might not collect a particular state's tokens, I think it is worthwhile to invest in the books. There is a wealth of information in every one of them.

SCAT Tokens

Mike Fritz picked up on an A-P article in the Spokane Spokesman-Review July 6, 1993:

'SCAT' machines installed along river

With burgeoning numbers of people floating on the Main Salmon River, human waste disposal methods are changing. Until this summer, all waste was packed out in portable toilets containing disposable plastic liners which were thrown away. River parties will not be allowed to use plastic bags to prevent clogging of sewage treatment facilities.

Linda Hayden, recreational specialist for the Salmon River District of the Forest Service, said new washing and sanitizing devices, called "SCAT" machines have been installed at various locations along the river. Users place the holding container into the SCAT and insert money or a token into the control panel. It takes about two minutes for the machine to clean and sanitize the portable toilet and dispose of the waste in a sewage system. At Riggins, tokens are available for \$1.65, with a machine at Crump's Chevron Station. The new machine in Riggins is part of a national pilot project to improve waste systems. Another is slated to be located at Newland Ranch to accommodate Middle Fork Salmon River users.



Mike had a hard time talking the attendant at Crumps in Riggins out of a token, but was able to finally get a sample. Unfortunately the 29mm brass pieces don't look much different than many stock amusement machine tokens from all over the country. They are larger than most, but that is the only difference. We probably will be able to find a supply of them in Salmon in July, as that is the "jumping off point" for

river trips down the main Salmon River. Speaking of which...

Salmon, here we come!

Plans are coming together for the second gathering of Idaho token collectors. Dean Rasmussen who is heading up the activities has made field trips to the area to scout it out. As reported in the March Newsletter, you need to make your own reservations, but please mention the Idaho Token Collectors when you do. The activities will start on the morning of Saturday, July 18, and will continue into the night - Dean has reserved a conference room for us to use at the Stagecoach. Here are the motel numbers: Stagecoach Inn 208-756-2919, Wagons West 800-756-4281, and Suncrest 208-756-2294. Be there! It will be fun!

Input needed

I am still in need of input from you folks. I am sure all of us appreciate the autobiographies and articles contributed by Idaho collectors. If you have not yet written up a short piece about yourself and how you got started collecting Idaho tokens, please do so. The rest of us will be interested, you can be assured. Don't worry about format or grammar; I can deal with most anything.

Any help with articles, news, photos, etc. will be appreciatively received. For those of you who have not been readers since the beginning, this is intended to be a mutual effort to share information about our hobby. From my years with the hobby, I can attest that every collector has some unique piece, story, or angle that would be of interest to others.

Grand Forks



Kendall Ballard sent this copy of a fantastic old photo of the Anheuser Hotel in downtown Grand Forks, Idaho.



The Anheuser tokens are the only examples from the town. All are 21mm and round. #GRF-1 is nickel and 50¢. I know of 4 examples.

#GRF-1(A) is brass and 5¢. I know of 4 examples. #GRF-1(B) is pictured and is 20¢. I know of only one example of this piece.

A post office was established at Grand Forks, Shoshone County, in 1908, but was rescinded later that year. I have been unable to find more information on this town or its tokens. Perhaps one of you can shed some light on the subject?

Best regards,

John D. Mutch
7931 Crestwood Drive
Boise, Idaho 83704-3022

e-mail: jmutch@juno.com